Dr n-Water, Jon.

DRAWER 3B

Poets

71 2009 085. 05467

Lincoln Poetry

Poets

John Drinkwater

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the

Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

71.2009.085.05467

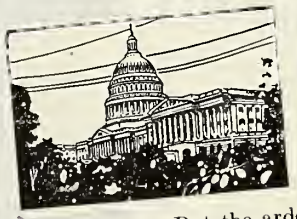
DRINKWATER, John (Lyric interlude) "In that Land where voyaging the pilgrim
ABRAHAM LINCOLN Mayflower came to rest"

NEARLY every person who has set rhymes to paper has made a poem on Lincoln. It would take many numbers of our paper to quote them, even the famous ones like Whitman's heart-cry, "O Captain! My Captain!" and those by Whittier and Lowell. The sympathetic and exalted poetic play, "Abraham Lincoln," by the Englishman, John Drinkwater, with its lyric interludes of unrivalled beauty includes the following tribute:

"In that land where voyaging
The Pilgrim Mayflower came to rest,
Among the chosen, counselling,
Once, when bewilderment possessed
A people, none there was might draw
To fold the wandering thoughts of men,
And make as one the names again
Of liberty and law.

"And then, from fifty fameless years
In quiet Illinois was sent
A word that still the Atlantic hears,
And Lincoln was the lord of his event.

"So the uncounted spirit wakes
To the birth
Of uncounted circumstance.
And time in a generation makes
Portents majestic a little story of earth
To be remembered by chance
At a fireside.
But the ardorous that they bear,
The proud and invincible motions of character—
These—these abide."



2/10/23 The Wellspring
14 Beacon St., Boston, Mass

THE BODYGUARD

I was his bodyguard' - The theme
Was Lincoln, in a little shack
Among the prairies by the stream
Of the Red River frozen black,
And all Dakota frozen hard,
When thus - 'I was his bodyguard.'

'One of the chosen; yes, sir.' Tall
As should befit so proud a boast;
Though sometimes bent, yet now with all
His height, as standing at his post,-
'Two years among them, till the end.
Yes - Mr. Lincoln called me friend.'

Still 'Mr. Lincoln' was the name;
'And yet I failed him at the close -
I've often thought myself to blame -
I was off duty - but suppose
I still had guarded him that night
In Washington - who knows - I might . . .

From AMERICAN VIGNETTES
Poems of The American Civil War
By John Drinkwater

Houghton Mifflin Company
Boston, 1931

IMMORTALIZING LINCOLN.

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—From "Abraham Lincoln," a play by John Drinkwater. Copyrighted by Houghton, Mifflin Company.

From THE WORLD'S LINCOLN

By John Drinkwater

Pages 9 & 10

"In North Dakota I met an old man, physically and mentally alert, who had been one of Lincoln's bodyguard for the two years preceding the assassination at Ford's Theatre; his lifelong regret was that he had been away on leave on the fatal evening, when who knows but what he might have given a different turn to American History."

New York

The Bowling Green Press

1928